

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAY 9 2006

International Application No.: PCT/EP03/012599

International Filing Date: 11 November 2003

Priority Date: 11 November 2003

Title: RAPID COUPLING

Inventors: MEIER, Ulrich and GREMINGER, Hans

Barnes & Thornburg LLP
Customer No.

23646

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

REQUEST TO BEGIN NATIONAL EXAMINATION

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated Office after publication and before 30 months from the priority date the following items under 35 U.S.C. § 371:

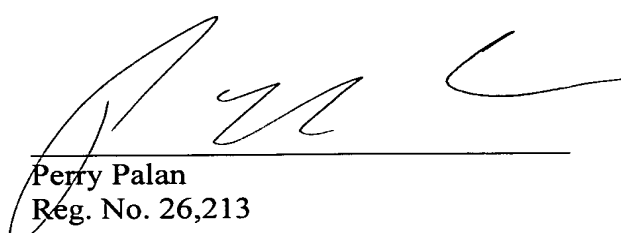
1. This is an express request to immediately begin national examination procedures under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f);
2. English Translation of the subject PCT Application and the amended claims under Article 34 PCT;
3. Preliminary Amendment;
4. Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and cited references; and
5. The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED, LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELLED OR ADDED BY AMENDMENT

For	No. Filed		No. Extra	Large Entity	Total
National Stage Basic Fee:				\$300	\$ 300.00
National Stage Search Fee:				\$400	\$ 400.00
National Stage Examination Fee :				\$200	\$ 200.00
Total Claims:	6	- 20	0	x \$50	\$ 00.00
Independent Claims:	1	- 3	0	x \$200	\$ 00.00
TOTAL FEES:					\$ 900.00

6. A check in the amount of \$900.00 is enclosed.

7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Barnes & Thornburg LLP Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (967/44780).



Perry Palan
Reg. No. 26,213